



# ***MassWildlife News***

*Commonwealth of Massachusetts – Division of Fisheries and Wildlife*  
Wayne F. MacCallum, *Director*

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## ***ANTLERLESS DEER PERMIT INSTANT AWARD PERIOD BEGINS AUGUST 1<sup>st</sup>***

Hunters who applied for an Antlerless Deer Permit by the July 16<sup>th</sup> deadline must return to the *MassFishHunt* licensing system to try to win a permit. The instant award period begins August 1<sup>st</sup> at 8:00 A.M. and continues through December 31<sup>st</sup>. This is NOT a first-come first-served system. The odds of winning an Antlerless Deer Permit during the instant award period are the same whether a customer tries to win in August, September, or any time before December 31<sup>st</sup>. Hunters have one chance to try for an instant award Antlerless Deer Permit.

There are three ways in which a hunter may participate and try to win a permit: 1) Log into the [MassFishHunt system](#) (see complete instructions below), 2) Visit a [MassWildlife office](#), or 3) Visit a [license agent location](#). Staff at these locations will access the *MassFishHunt* system on the customer's behalf.

### **Instant Award Antlerless Deer Permit instructions using the MassFishHunt online system**

1. Log into the [MassFishHunt system](#) with your last name and customer ID
2. Click the **Enter Sales** button at the bottom right of the screen
3. Click **Accept** in the Customer Electronic Signature dialog box
4. Choose **Hunting Permits and Stamps** from the main menu on the left
5. Choose **Add** next to Antlerless Deer Permit

6. The zone for which you previously applied will appear on the next screen. Click **Select** to check whether an Antlerless Deer Permit has been won for that zone.
7. One of two messages will appear in the center of the screen indicating the Antlerless Deer Permit win/lose status:

“Congratulations! You have been awarded an Antlerless Deer Permit which has been placed in your shopping cart. Close this window and click check out to purchase it.”

Or

“Unfortunately you did not win this product.”

In the case of a “win,” an Antlerless Deer Permit will be placed in the shopping cart, and you may proceed to Check Out to complete the purchase. Antlerless Deer Permits will remain in the shopping cart until purchased or expired. Winning hunters are reminded to print their Antlerless Deer Permits upon completion of the transaction. All Antlerless Deer Permits expire on December 31 of the year issued. If you did not win a permit you do not have to take any further action.

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### ***LAST MONTH TO COUNT TURKEYS!***

Turkey observers are reminded to report any sightings of turkey broods (families) to the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife’s annual turkey brood survey. The last day of the survey is August 31. A brood survey form to report this information may be found on the [MassWildlife website](#). Send completed forms to: Turkey Brood Count, MassWildlife Field Headquarters, 100 Hartwell Street, West Boylston, MA 01583.

### ***REMEMBERING SCOTT MELVIN***

Dr. Scott Melvin, Senior Zoologist for MassWildlife’s Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, passed away in July after a brief illness. Scott Melvin earned his bachelor’s degree in Wildlife Management at the University of Maine in 1975 and his master’s and doctoral degree from the University of Wisconsin studying the migration ecology of Sandhill Cranes. He worked for two state fish and wildlife agencies: the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, where he was Assistant Leader of the Endangered and Nongame Wildlife Project, and the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife where he worked in the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program for almost 30 years. Scott Melvin oversaw research and conservation efforts for a variety of wildlife ranging from turtles to grassland birds, but he is best known for his work in the recovery of the Piping Plover. Through conservation partnerships forged under Scott Melvin’s tenure, the Piping Plover population has had a fourfold increase in numbers, with over 660 estimated nesting pairs in Massachusetts. Scott enjoyed teaching over the years at the University of Maine, Harvard University, and the University of Massachusetts/Amherst where he was an advisor to many graduate students.

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## ***18<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL OUTDOOR EXPO PROMISES FUN FOR ALL AGES***

Mark your calendars! September 28<sup>th</sup> promises to be a day of learning and fun for those who attend the [Massachusetts Outdoor Expo](#) (Big MOE), to be held at the Hamilton Rod and Gun Club grounds in Sturbridge from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. The Big MOE, sponsored by the Facts About Wildlife and Nature Society (FAWNS), is a free, family-oriented event celebrating outdoor skills, nature, art, and wildlife. The Big MOE presents a perfect opportunity to introduce young and old to a variety of outdoor skills and activities. Most of the same great stations from previous years will be at this year's Expo, including fly tying, kayaking, trap shooting, a petting zoo, and many more.

**New this year:** State Ornithologist Drew Vitz has developed a station called Introduction to Birding in Massachusetts. Stop by this station to hear recorded bird songs and get tips for viewing and identifying birds in the forest and field. Also, don't miss the new and improved Bears of Massachusetts station, which will now include a barrel trap used by biologists to trap and collar bears.

The Big Moe is free thanks to the following co-sponsors: Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Hamilton Rod and Gun Club, The Weatherby Foundation, Whitetails Unlimited, and the Worcester County League of Sportsmen's Clubs. The Big MOE is in need of enthusiastic, outdoor-oriented volunteers willing to assist or host skills stations. Clubs, conservation organizations, and outdoor-oriented businesses wishing to host a skill station, assist others at an existing station, or make a donation are welcome. For more information on volunteering or exhibiting, contact Gary Zima at (508) 389-6314 or [gary.zima@state.ma.us](mailto:gary.zima@state.ma.us).

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## ***MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTERS MUST GET HIP***

Woodcock, snipe, rail, duck, and goose hunters must register with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Harvest Information Program (HIP) by taking a HIP survey. HIP surveys can only be completed through the online [MassFishHunt](#) system; the HIP survey is no longer available by telephone and HIP numbers are no longer issued. Non-resident hunters are reminded they must complete a HIP survey for each state they hunt in. The Massachusetts HIP survey is valid for the calendar year. HIP data gathered from migratory game bird hunters is used by state and federal biologists to better evaluate hunter effort and harvest.

Your hunting/sporting license will indicate whether you have completed a HIP survey. Check near the top of your license for the words "HIP Survey Completed." If you do NOT see this phrase, you can complete the survey through any computer with Internet access via the [MassFishHunt](#) system (see instructions below). You can also visit any [MassWildlife office](#) or [license agent location](#) to complete the HIP survey. Be sure to reprint your license after registering.

Duck and goose hunters must purchase a state waterfowl stamp and are automatically prompted to complete the HIP survey during the transaction. Waterfowl hunters who purchased a state waterfowl stamp to hunt in January and February of 2014 are already registered for the entire calendar year and do not need to take any action. Migratory game bird hunters who ONLY hunt woodcock, snipe, or rails do not need a waterfowl stamp and must complete a HIP survey as a separate step during or after their hunting/sporting license purchase.

## **Instructions for registering with HIP through the *MassFishHunt* system:**

### **Purchasing a waterfowl stamp (for duck and goose hunting)**

Go to the *MassFishHunt* website at [www.mass.gov/massfishhunt](http://www.mass.gov/massfishhunt) and enter your Customer ID number. A page with your personal information will appear; click the **Enter Sales** button. Next, select **Hunting Permits and Stamps**. On the next screen, choose **Waterfowl Stamp**. You will then be prompted to answer eight questions regarding migratory gamebird hunting.

After answering the questions, click **Accept** and proceed to **Check Out**. Be sure to reprint your license which will now indicate that you have purchased the waterfowl stamp and completed the HIP survey.

### **Completing the HIP Survey only (for woodcock, snipe, and rail hunting but no waterfowl)**

Go to the *MassFishHunt* website at [www.mass.gov/massfishhunt](http://www.mass.gov/massfishhunt) and enter your Customer ID number. A page with your personal information will appear; click the **Enter Sales** button. On the next screen, select **HIP Survey**. You will then be prompted to answer eight questions regarding migratory gamebird hunting.

After answering the questions, click **Accept** and proceed to **Check Out**. There is no fee for completing the HIP survey; however, you are required to complete the check out process. Be sure to reprint your license which will now indicate that you have completed the HIP survey.

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## ***ATTENTION YOUTH INTERESTED IN PHEASANT HUNTING***

Hunter Education graduates between the ages of 12-17 are welcome to partake in this exciting program that involves shooting instruction and practice, a pre-hunt workshop and a mentored hunt prior to the regular pheasant season! All youths ages 15-17 will need an FID card to participate in this program.

If you would like more information or are interested in participating, please contact Astrid Huseby at [astrid.huseby@state.ma.us](mailto:astrid.huseby@state.ma.us) or check out [www.mass.gov/dfw/yaph](http://www.mass.gov/dfw/yaph).

## ***UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS AND HEARING***

**August 12 – Fisheries and Wildlife Board Meeting, Newburyport** – The August meeting of the Fisheries and Wildlife Board will be held on August 12, 2014, at 1:00 P.M., at the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, 6 Plum Island Turnpike, Newburyport. Click here for directions to the [Parker River National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center](#). Please note that there is no entrance fee for visiting the headquarters and visitor center; a fee is charged only for access to the refuge itself. For more information call 508-389-6342.

**August 12 – Migratory Gamebird Public Hearing, Newburyport** – The Fisheries and Wildlife Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, August 12, 2014, at 3:00 P.M., at the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, 6 Plum Island Turnpike, Newburyport, to establish rules and regulations relative to the 2014-2015 migratory gamebird seasons and method of take. A vote on these regulations will immediately follow the hearing. Click here for directions to the [Parker River National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center](#). Please note that there is no entrance fee for visiting the headquarters and visitor center; a fee is charged only for access to the refuge itself.

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## ***CALENDAR OF EVENTS***

**August 1-17 – Quack, Quack! Junior Duck Stamp Traveling Art Exhibit, Newburyport** – Celebrating 20 Years of the Junior Duck Stamp Program in Massachusetts! From now until August 17, the Traveling JDS Art Exhibit will be at the [Custom House Maritime Museum, 25 Water Street in Newburyport](#). More information about the JDS contest can be found at: [www.mass.gov/dfw/jds](http://www.mass.gov/dfw/jds).

**August 2-3 – Becoming an Outdoors Family Camping Workshop, Andover** – This family-friendly event to be held at Harold Parker State Forest is designed specifically for families who are new to camping and want to give it a try. The Outdoor Family Camping Workshop is a joint effort between the Division's Becoming an Outdoorswoman Program and the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Learn To Camp Program. [Click here for registration materials](#) or call (617) 626-4962.

**August 15-24 – MassWildlife at the Marshfield Fair, Marshfield** --Visit the DFW exhibit while you enjoy the fair. Learn about some of the common wildlife living in your neighborhood or community. Ask your wildlife and outdoor recreation questions of the DFW staff at the exhibit. Click here for more information about the [Marshfield Fair](#).

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